E/2011/27
E/CN.6/2011/12

United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the fifty-fifth session (12 March 2010, 22 February-4 March and 14 March 2011)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2011
Supplement No. 7

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United Nations • New York, 2011

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0252-0117

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its resolution 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, as an input into the annual ministerial review of 2011.

Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other conventions and treaties, such as the relevant conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, provide a legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the promotion of gender equality in education and employment.

3. The Commission recalls the United Nations Millennium Declaration and General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, and recognizes the interdependence of all the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission also recalls the ministerial declaration of the 2010 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women. It takes note of the Budapest Science Agenda — Framework for Action, adopted at the World Conference on Science in 1999, and of the Dakar Framework for Action: Education for All, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000.

4. The Commission welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its operationalization, which will strengthen the ability of the United Nations to support the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and welcomes the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the first Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women.

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 75-78.

5. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national machineries for the advancement of women, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions where they exist, and the important role of civil society, especially women's organizations, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in promoting the full and equal access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology.

6. The Commission stresses that education is a human right, and that equal access to education, training and science and technology empowers women and girls in the context of global economic and technological changes and promotes development, all human rights, human rights education and learning at all levels, as well as gender equality, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and the eradication of poverty.

7. The Commission reaffirms that the best interest of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her education and guidance in the exercise by the child of his or her rights and that responsibility lies in the first place with his or her parents or legal guardians.

8. The Commission welcomes the progress made in increasing women's and girls' access to and participation in education and training, including science and technology education. The Commission recognizes the potential of education and training and science and technology, to contribute to the economic empowerment of women, which also leads to accelerating progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015.

9. The Commission notes that quality education and full and equal access and participation in science and technology for women of all ages are imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and an economic necessity, and that they provide women with the knowledge, capacity, aptitudes, skills, ethical values and understanding necessary for lifelong learning employment, better physical and mental health, including the prevention and control of maternal mortality, HIV and AIDS and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as for full participation in social, economic and political development.

10. The Commission welcomes the important contribution that women make to all fields of education, training, science and technology, and recognizes their work in the full spectrum of professions in science and technology. The Commission also acknowledges that women and men should continue to contribute to the promotion of the ethical dimensions of scientific and technological progress.

11. The Commission recognizes that research and development in science and technology, and its dissemination, have insufficiently responded to women's needs. The Commission stresses the need for increased cooperation among countries, including through international cooperation and transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms, especially to developing countries, in

order to enhance equal access of women to science and technology and their participation in science and technology education.

12. The Commission expresses continued concern at the negative impact of the global crises, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and continuing food insecurity, and the energy crisis, as well as the challenges posed by poverty, natural disasters and climate change, on the empowerment of women and girls, including their access and participation in education, training, science and technology.

13. The Commission expresses concern at the serious and persistent obstacles that still hinder the advancement of women and further affect their participation in decision-making, including the persistent feminization of poverty, the lack of equal access to health, education, training and employment, as well as armed conflict, lack of security and natural disasters.

14. The Commission acknowledges that men and women continue to face gender stereotypes, as well as challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes, and stresses that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women.

15. The Commission expresses deep concern about all legal, economic, social and cultural barriers that prevent women and girls from having equal access to education and training, and recognizes that some women and girls face multiple discrimination and disadvantages that prevent their participation in education, training and employment.

16. The Commission recognizes that the upbringing of children requires the shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole, and that maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation must not be a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society.

17. The Commission expresses deep concern that discrimination and violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment and bullying, continue to occur in all parts of the world, including in education and in the workplace. The Commission notes that those are obstacles to the achievement of women's and girls' equal access to and participation in education, including in science and technology education, and training, as well as impediments to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men in other aspects of life, including full employment and decent work.

18. The Commission also expresses concern that inadequate educational opportunities and low quality education reduce the benefits of education and training for women and girls, men and boys, and that women's educational gains are yet to translate into equal access to full employment and decent work, with consequent long-term adverse effects on the development of any society. It remains deeply concerned by the persistence of high female illiteracy rates and gender stereotyped roles of women and men, which inhibit women's equal participation in employment, leading to occupational segregation, including the widespread underrepresentation of women and girls in many fields of science and technology, which represents a loss of talent and

perspectives, hinders economic development and women's economic empowerment and can contribute to the gender pay gap.

19. The Commission expresses concern about high drop-out rates from school of female students in many parts of the world, especially at the secondary level, and including at the tertiary level, owing to multiple discrimination and factors that impede girls' participation in education.

20. The Commission expresses concern that the unequal sharing of responsibilities of daily life, including caregiving between women and men, girls and boys, has a disproportionate impact on women's and girls' access to education, training and science and technology, and on their economic empowerment and long-term economic security.

21. The Commission underlines that addressing the barriers to equal access of women and girls to education, training and science and technology requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, including policy, legislative and programmatic interventions and, as appropriate, gender-responsive budgeting, at all levels.

22. The Commission urges Governments, at all levels, including local authorities and national machineries for the advancement of women, and/or, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites national human rights institutions where they exist, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, educational, scientific research and funding institutions, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, professional associations, the media and other relevant actors, to take the following actions, as appropriate:

Strengthening national legislation, policies and programmes

(a) Mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes within all governmental sectors, including education, training, science and technology, academia, research institutions and research funding agencies, in order to address unequal access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;

(b) Strengthen capacities to ensure that science education policies and curricula are relevant to the needs of women and girls so that developments in science and technology can directly benefit them;

(c) Improve and systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data; enhance capacity development in this regard; and develop relevant gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative development and policymaking on education, training and science and technology;

(d) Encourage the provision of institutional and financial support for academic studies that can produce gender-specific knowledge and feed into all policies and programmes on education, training and research and support research, including longitudinal policy research, to identify specific gaps in

education and career pathways, so as to promote the retention of women and girls in different fields of science and technology and in other relevant disciplines;

(e) Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation and, where appropriate, the review of existing policies and programmes to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in education, training, science and technology, and access to full employment and decent work, in order to assess their effectiveness and impact, ensure a gender perspective in all policies and programmes and strengthen accountability;

(f) Encourage and, as appropriate, increase public and private investment in education and training to expand women's and girls' access to quality education and training throughout their life cycle, including, inter alia, through the provision of scholarships for study in science and technology in secondary and tertiary institutions, and to ensure that research and development in the field of science and technology directly benefits women and girls;

(g) Incorporate systematically a gender perspective into budgetary policies at all levels to ensure that public resources in education, training, science, technology and research equally benefit women and men, girls and boys, and contribute to the empowerment of women and girls in particular;

(h) Urge developed countries that have not yet done so, in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(i) Strengthen international cooperation in the area of access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work and the promotion of women's participation in the exchange of scientific knowledge, and welcome and encourage in this regard South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and recognize that the commitment to explore opportunities for further South-South cooperation entails not seeking a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation;

(j) Prioritize and encourage enhanced funding and capacity development efforts for the education and training needs of girls and women in development assistance programmes;

(k) Continue to strengthen policies relevant for women's economic empowerment aimed at addressing inequality affecting women and girls, in access to and achievement in education at all levels, including in science and technology, in particular to eliminate inequalities related to age, poverty, geographical location, language, ethnicity, disability, and race, or because they are indigenous people, or people living with HIV and AIDS;

(l) Strengthen national efforts, including with the support of international cooperation, aimed at addressing the rights and needs of women and girls affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts, other complex humanitarian emergencies, trafficking in persons and terrorism, within the context of access and participation of women and girls to education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. Also underline the need to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of women and girls living under foreign occupation, so as to ensure the achievement of the above-mentioned goals;

Expanding access and participation in education

(m) Ensure women's and girls' full and equal access to quality formal, informal and non-formal education and vocational training at all levels, including to free and compulsory primary education, and provide educational opportunities, including in science and technology, from early childhood and throughout the life cycle, including lifelong learning and retraining, human rights education and learning, and adult and distance education and e-learning, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, in order to promote the empowerment of women, inter alia, through enhancing and facilitating women's access to full and productive employment, in particular to careers in science and technology;

(n) Improve and expand women's and girl's access to distance education, e-learning, tele-education and community radio, including in rural and remote communities, owing to the important role they play in women's development, including, inter alia, in helping to overcome issues related to time constraints, lack of accessibility, lack of financial resources and family responsibilities;

(o) Increase enrolment and retention rates of girls in education, inter alia, by: allocating appropriate and adequate budgetary resources; enlisting the support of parents and the community, including through campaigns and flexible school schedules; providing financial and other incentives targeted at families, including access to free education at the primary level, and at other levels where possible, and scholarships; and providing teaching, learning and hygiene and health supplies, as well as nutritional and academic support, in order to minimize the costs of education, in particular to families, and to facilitate parents' ability to choose education for their children;

(p) Ensure that pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, can continue and complete their education, and in this regard, design, implement and, where applicable, revise educational policies to allow them to return to school, providing them with access to health and social services and support, including childcare facilities and crèches, and to education programmes with accessible locations, flexible schedules and distance education, including e-learning, and bearing in mind the challenges faced by young fathers in this regard;

(q) Condemn all forms of violence against women and girls and take appropriate action to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and

violence in order, inter alia, to ensure access and participation in education, training, full employment and decent work;

(r) Improve the safety of girls at and on the way to school, including, inter alia, by improving infrastructure such as transportation, providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments, conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for all forms of harassment and violence against girls;

Strengthening gender-sensitive quality education and training, including in the field of science and technology

(s) Improve the quality of education at all levels for both girls and boys, including in science and technology education, through improving learning conditions, continuous teacher training, teaching methodologies and curriculum development, implementing programmes to improve achievements for the most disadvantaged learners and expanding recruitment and support for teachers, in particular for women teachers in scientific and technological disciplines;

(t) Ensure that education results in the acquisition by women and girls of literacy and numeracy skills, knowledge and other skills that enhance and broaden their employment opportunities;

(u) Expand and improve teacher education and training and systematically integrate a gender perspective in such programmes in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and to overcome gender stereotypes;

(v) Develop gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and take concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles, particularly in the teaching of scientific and technological subjects, in order to address the root causes of segregation in working life;

(w) Remove legal, regulatory and social barriers, where appropriate, to sexual and reproductive health education within formal education programmes on women's health issues;

(x) Ensure women's and girls' right to education at all levels as well as access to life skills and sex education based on full and accurate information and, with respect to girls and boys, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, in order to help women and girls, men and boys, to develop knowledge to enable them to make informed and responsible decisions to reduce early childbearing and maternal mortality, to promote access to pre- and post-natal care and to combat sexual harassment and gender-based violence;

(y) Take steps to promote access for women and girls to education and training, including human rights education and learning at all levels, which can foster tolerance and mutual understanding and respect for all human rights, so

that they can realize their full human potential by learning about the comprehensive framework of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(z) Provide quality education in emergency situations that is gender-sensitive, centred on learners, rights-based, protective, adaptable, inclusive, participatory and reflective of the specific living conditions of women, children and youth, and that pays due regard, as appropriate, to their linguistic and cultural identity, mindful that quality education can foster tolerance and mutual understanding and respect for the human rights of others;

(aa) Improve hands-on experimentation and collaborative work in science and technology classes, highlight the broad societal applications of science and technology in curricula and educational material and expose girls and boys, women and men, to female role models in science and technology, in order to make science and technology, including engineering and mathematics, more attractive for girls and women;

(bb) Promote a positive image of careers in science and technology for women and girls, including in the mass media and social media and through sensitizing parents, students, teachers, career counsellors and curriculum developers, and devising and scaling up other strategies to encourage and support their participation in these fields;

Supporting the transition from education to full employment and decent work

(cc) Address the different barriers women and girls face in the transition from school to work by: expanding the scope of education and training opportunities that are relevant to employment opportunities and aligned with rapidly changing labour market needs, particularly in emerging, new and non-traditional fields; helping women acquire business, trade, information and communications technology and entrepreneurship skills; raising awareness of such opportunities and of their suitability to both women and men, particularly among parents, teachers, career counsellors and other advisers; and encouraging interaction between educational systems, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate;

(dd) Adopt policies and mechanisms to recognize women's prior learning and management skills, including those gained from informal and/or unpaid work, especially for women who discontinued their education or employment for various reasons, so as to facilitate their access to education, training and employment opportunities;

(ee) Improve access to gender-sensitive career counselling and to job search support services and include job readiness and job search skills in curricula for secondary and higher education and vocational training, in order to facilitate the transition from school to work and re-entry into the labour market for women of all ages;

(ff) Work to eliminate occupational and sectoral segregation and the gender pay gap by recognizing the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers, such as care and other service areas, improving career pathways and working conditions and undertaking, evaluating and, where necessary, reviewing legislation, policies and programmes, public awareness

campaigns and other measures, such as career management, to promote women's entry into non-traditional sectors;

(gg) Promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities for women and men, as well as the equal sharing of employment and family responsibilities between women and men, including by: designing, implementing and promoting family-friendly legislation, policies and services, such as affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependent persons, and parental and other leave schemes; undertaking campaigns to sensitize public opinion and other relevant actors to these issues; and promoting measures that reconcile care and professional life and emphasize men's equal responsibilities with respect to household work;

(hh) Develop or strengthen policies and programmes to support the multiple roles of women in society, including in the fields of science and technology, in order to increase women's and girls' access to education, training, science and technology, while acknowledging the social significance of maternity and motherhood, parenting and the role of parents and other guardians in the upbringing of the children and caring for other family members, and ensure that such policies and programmes also promote shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole;

(ii) Encourage employers and research funding agencies to establish flexible and non-discriminatory work policies and arrangements for both women and men, such as time extension on research grants for pregnant researchers, leave schemes, quality care services and social protection policies, in order to improve the retention and progression of women in science and technology;

(jj) Implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education and fair labour conditions, facilitate their productive employment and decent work and integration into the labour force, including, inter alia, in the fields of education and science and technology, and ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation;

Increasing retention and progression of women in science and technology employment

(kk) Encourage workplace environments and institutional practices that value all members and offer them equal opportunities to reach their full potential, ensuring that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are considered a necessary dimension of human resources management, in particular for the modernization of scientific and technological organizations and institutions, both in the public and private sectors;

(ll) Encourage the use of clear and transparent criteria for, and promote the achievement of gender balance in, recruitment, promotion and recognition in science and technology, both in the public and private sectors; train and sensitize leadership and staff, at all levels, in gender mainstreaming and gender equality issues and prevent direct and indirect discrimination against women; and support the building of leadership skills for women;

(mm) Develop career advisory, networking and mentoring programmes, including programmes that utilize information and communications technology; support role models and facilitate programmes that link women scientists around the world; and promote measures to improve female retention and progression in the fields of science and technology, with a special focus on women scientists in tertiary education and early-stage career and women re-entering science and technology careers;

(nn) Take steps to ensure that science, technology and innovation policies take into account and address the specific constraints faced by women entrepreneurs and facilitate their access to credit, training, information and business support services, including those provided in technology parks and business incubator centres;

(oo) Set concrete goals, targets and benchmarks, as appropriate, while supporting a merit-based approach, to achieve equal participation of women and men in decision-making at all levels, especially in science and technology institutions, such as science academies, research funding institutions, academia and the public and private sectors, as well as in the design of science and technology policies and research and development agenda-setting;

Making science and technology responsive to women's needs

(pp) Utilize the full potential of science and technology, including in engineering and mathematics, and their innovations to deliver improvements in infrastructure and sectors such as energy, transportation, agriculture, nutrition, health, water and sanitation and information and communications technology, in order, inter alia, to eradicate poverty, promote social development and achieve women's economic empowerment;

(qq) Create awareness of the needs of women in science and technology, including by encouraging the media to sponsor popular science programming, and report on the differential impact of science and technology on women and men;

(rr) Encourage the integration of a gender perspective in the science and technology curricula throughout all stages of education and continuous learning, and the use of gender-based analysis and gender impact assessments in research and development in science and technology, and promote a user-driven approach to technology development in order to increase the relevance and usefulness of advancements in science and technology for both women and men;

(ss) Respect, preserve and maintain women's traditional knowledge and innovation while recognizing the potential of rural and indigenous women to contribute to the production of science and technology and of new knowledge to improve their lives and those of their families and communities;

(tt) Formulate and implement public policies that increase women's and girls' access to digital technologies, including through conducting local communications campaigns.

23. The Commission recognizes the need for the compilation and sharing of good practice examples and lessons learned in mainstreaming a gender

perspective into science, technology and innovation policies and programmes, with a view to replicating and scaling up successes, and in this regard looks forward to any steps or actions that could be taken by the relevant United Nations bodies, especially the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2010/6 of 20 July 2010 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 85-91.

[1] E/CN.6/2011/6.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Expressing grave concern also about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians and arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment and food insecurity, inadequate water supply, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the Israeli military operations and the imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls in this regard upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, and affirming its support for the Palestinian Authority's

plan of August 2009 for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907,[9] the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[10] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the international covenants on human rights, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[9] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session[1] and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern, and further actions and initiatives; priority theme: "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges";

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges

Report of the Executive Director of UN-Women

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the High-level round table of the Commission

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

* For the discussion, see chap. V.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27).

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General on the economic empowerment of women

Report of the Secretary-General on eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

Report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of UN-Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of UN-Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of the forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat as input to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 55/1
Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action[1] under the critical area "Women and the environment",

Reaffirming also principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[12] which recognizes that women have a vital role in environmental management and development, and in this regard recalling the objectives of Agenda 21[13] relating to women, particularly with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management,

Stressing the need to ensure women's full enjoyment of all human rights and their effective participation in environmental decision-making at all levels and the need to integrate their concerns and gender equality perspectives in sustainable development policies and programmes,

Recalling the agreed conclusions on women and the environment adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session and on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters adopted by the Commission at its forty-sixth session,

Recalling also the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[14] in particular the need to promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and climate change into strategies for the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change and the need to integrate a gender perspective into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education training,

Recalling further the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 9 November 2001[15] on improving the participation of women in the representation of parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Kyoto Protocol,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 10/4 of 25 March 2009, which recognizes that while climate change-related impacts have a range of implications, the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 79-84.

12 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

13 Ibid., annex II.

14 A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

15 See document FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.4 and Corr.1, decision 36/CP.7.

Deeply concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change on women and girls, especially those living in poverty, can be exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination,

Mindful that women who live in conditions of poverty and social exclusion have limited opportunities to participate in training and capacity-building and have less access to information related to all aspects of climate change, including on climate forecasts and related warnings,

Recognizing that women are powerful agents of change and key actors in contributing effective responses to the challenges posed by climate change, including by disasters,

Underscoring that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change, and welcoming in this regard the attention given to such mainstreaming and participation in the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Cancun, Mexico,[16]

1. *Recognizes* that gender equality, the integration of gender perspectives and the effective participation of women at the global, regional, national and local levels are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change, as contained, inter alia, in the Bali Action Plan;[17]

2. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls;

3. *Also call upon* Governments to ensure that sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas are, in the context of climate change policies and strategies, gender sensitive;

4. *Encourages* Governments and, as appropriate, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and all relevant actors to facilitate and increase the participation of women, including indigenous women, particularly at the grass-roots level, as decision makers, entrepreneurs, planners, evaluators, managers, scientists, technical advisers at all levels and as beneficiaries in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of all aspects of climate change policies;

5. *Urges* Governments and all other relevant actors, in their efforts in dealing with climate change, to promote women's equal access to education, media and information, communications and technology and to encourage women's equal participation in training and capacity-building;

6. *Calls upon* Governments, in their efforts in dealing with climate change, to support and empower rural women, who are engaged in agricultural

[16] See FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.16.
[17] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, decision 1/CP.13.

production and play a vital role in providing food security threatened by climate change, including land tenure and other property rights, by enhancing their access to and control of resources;

7. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations programmes, funds and agencies and other relevant bodies involved in implementing climate change policies to take the measures necessary to enable women to participate fully in all levels of decision-making relevant to climate change, and to facilitate and provide training on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women and girls and to promote gender balance and gender sensitivity among their representatives and staff;

8. *Encourages* Governments, international financial facilities and institutions, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate, to promote the participation of women and ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into the design, approval, execution and monitoring of climate change-related projects;

9. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen international cooperation in such areas as training, capacity-building and technology transfer in order to address the challenges faced by women and girls in the context of climate change;

10. *Invites* social, economic, political and scientific institutions to take into account the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on women, and, in this regard, to develop database tools, databases and statistics, containing reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, as well as gender-sensitive methodologies and policy analyses;

11. *Encourages* Governments to integrate a gender component into their periodic reporting as States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

12. *Calls upon* Governments, including States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to continue to incorporate a gender perspective and make efforts to ensure the effective participation of women in the ongoing climate change talks leading to the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Durban, South Africa, in 2011.

Resolution 55/2
Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[18] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[19] the Declaration of Commitment on

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 92-96.

[18] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[19] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

HIV/AIDS[20] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[21] the HIV and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[22] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[23]

Welcoming the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women,[24] taking note of the recommendations contained therein, and welcoming also the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in 2008 to launch the multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women",

Taking note of the outcome of the 2008 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS,

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are increasingly vulnerable to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Deeply concerned also that the global HIV and AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, early marriage, child and forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Concerned also that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

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[20] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.
[21] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.
[22] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[23] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.
[24] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

Concerned further that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment of and care and support for people living with HIV and affected by AIDS,

Stressing that the HIV and AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action across all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in all fields and at all levels,

Stressing also that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV and are essential to reversing the pandemic,

Expressing its concern that the HIV and AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the pandemic, that they are more easily infected, especially at an earlier age than men and boys, that they bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[20] the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[21] the Beijing Platform for Action[18] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[19]

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals, and in this regard looks forward to the convening of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly in June 2011, which is to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in addressing the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and the remaining gaps and challenges, and to chart the way forward so as to guide and monitor the HIV and AIDS response beyond 2010;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, which encompasses integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[22] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as well as the goals

of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, to strengthen their economic independence and their right to property and inheritance, and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic;

6. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned children in vulnerable situations;

7. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls living with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV and AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by girls caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school;

11. *Urges* Governments to ensure, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, in particular male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and to promote their ongoing research, including that for safe and effective microbicides;

12. *Reminds* Member States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by Member States, when necessary, to protect public health and address public-health crises;

13. *Urges* Governments to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all

forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, abuse, early marriage, child and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

14. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early marriage, child and forced marriage and marital rape;

15. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments;

16. *Urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs, and HIV and maternal health-related pharmaceutical products for women and girls, and to collect data on treatment disaggregated by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

17. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health, education programmes and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including prevention and treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

19. *Stresses* that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to exercise control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

20. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources commensurate with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes designed to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women,

including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals set out, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and voluntary testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women living with HIV;

22. *Encourages* the continued collaboration between the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations with a view to their continuing to scale up efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and their actively seeking the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the integration of the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to scale up a gender-sensitive response to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in order to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection;

24. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations organizations responding to the HIV and AIDS pandemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate action on women, girls, gender equality and HIV, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

26. *Recommends* the development and use of gender analysis, the harmonization of data, and the development and refinement of indicators as part of the process to update the core indicators on HIV and AIDS for the reporting system for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to help measure women's and girls' inequalities in the context of HIV;

27. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and

to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS;

28. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, so as to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

29. *Welcomes* the call by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to prevention and treatment programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in those programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

30. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

31. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sex education and services necessary for behavioural change, so as to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

32. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV and AIDS;

33. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including use of microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

34. *Encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV or affected by the pandemic and to address the challenges faced by the survivors and caregivers, in particular children and older persons, as well as to ensure the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

35. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV and AIDS programmes, and urges Governments to develop and implement policies and programmes designed to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, so as to ensure that the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with HIV and affected by AIDS, in particular women and girls, especially in the context of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, are protected;

36. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment for combating stigmatization;

37. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls in HIV response, to ensure resources to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

38. *Also urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure that gender-equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that such new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

39. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and urges further contributions to sustain the Global Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

41. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and especially to address the needs of women and girls around the world, in particular in those countries most affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean;

42. *Recommends* that, in the process of the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, gender-equality perspectives should be included throughout the deliberations and that attention

should be paid to the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

43. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take into account, when preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 18 of its resolution 65/180 of 20 December 2010, the disproportionate impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls and the gender dimensions of the epidemic;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

Decision 55/101
Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

5. At its 17th meeting, on 14 March 2011, the Commission decided to transmit the summaries of the discussions[25] held during the high-level round table and panels convened during its fifty-fifth session to the Economic and Social Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2011.

Decision 55/102
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

6. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March 2011, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents:

Under agenda item 2

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women[26]

Under agenda item 3

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;[27]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on access and participation of

[25] See E/CN.6/2011/CRP.3, E/CN.6/2011/CRP.4 and E/CN.6/2011/CRP.5.
[26] E/CN.6/2011/2.
[27] E/CN.6/2011/3.

women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;[28]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS;[29]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women, now part of UN-Women, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[30]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund to eliminate violence against women.[31]

[28] E/CN.6/2011/5.
[29] E/CN.6/2011/7.
[30] A/HRC/16/33-E/CN.6/2011/8.
[31] A/HRC/16/34-E/CN.6/2011/9.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

7. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 12th, and 14th to 17th meetings, from 22 to 25 February, and 28 February and 1, 3, 4 and 14 March 2011. It held a general debate at its 2nd, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 14th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/CN.6/2011/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/3);

(c) Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2011/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2011/7);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women, now part of UN-Women, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/16/33-E/CN.6/2011/8);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/16/34-E/CN.6/2011/9);

(i) Note by the secretariat on the results of the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.1);

(j) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2011/NGO/1-79).

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 22 February, opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

9. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and by the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

10. Also at the same meeting, the distinguished guest speaker, Mrs. Emine Erdogan (Turkey), addressed the Commission.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Namibia (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community).

12. Statements were also made by the observers for Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Chile (on behalf of the Rio Group), the Bahamas (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Kiribati (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Georgia, Ghana, Brazil and Mexico.

13. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, China, Italy, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Namibia, Senegal, El Salvador, Turkey and Uruguay.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Liberia, Kenya, Australia, Zambia, the Bahamas, Luxembourg, Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Iran (Islamic Republic of), France, Qatar, Nigeria, Indonesia, Mali, Jordan, Chile, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece and Panama.

15. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, a non-governmental organization, made a statement.

16. At the 7th meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Niger, Haiti, Spain, Gabon, Paraguay, Cambodia, Japan, Argentina, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Israel and Germany.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Norway, Mozambique (on behalf of the African Group), Finland, Cameroon, Honduras, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Barbados, Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States), Timor-Leste, Poland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Portugal, Angola, Kazakhstan, Maldives, New Zealand, Costa Rica and the Sudan.

18. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and African Women's Development and Communication Network, a non-governmental organization.

19. At its 9th meeting, on 28 February, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made a statement.

20. At the same meeting, the Commission continued its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of Guinea, the United States of America, Armenia, India, Eritrea, Cuba, the Central African Republic and Swaziland.

21. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Togo, Slovenia, Thailand, Burundi, Croatia, Egypt, Viet Nam, Yemen, the Congo, the

Marshall Islands, Morocco, Ireland, Andorra, Denmark, the Syrian Arab Republic, Austria, Peru, Switzerland, Algeria and Iceland.

22. Also at the 9th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Palestine.

23. At the 10th meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Colombia.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Estonia, Ethiopia, the Czech Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ukraine, Guyana, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Malta, Nepal, Botswana, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Solomon Islands, Saint Lucia and Ecuador.

25. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the African Union, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

26. At the 14th meeting, on 3 March, statements were made by the representatives of Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental organization, as well as by the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

27. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also made statements: Misión Mujer (also on behalf of Centro de Estudio y Formación Integral de la Mujer; Fundación Eudes; Mujer para la Mujer; and Vida y Familia de Guadalajara); Zenab for Women in Development; Rural Development Leadership Network; American Association of University Women (also on behalf of Girl Scouts of the United States of America; Girls Learn International, Inc.; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; School Sisters of Notre Dame; Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur; Salvation Army; and Passionists International); Education International (also on behalf of International Trade Union Confederation and Public Services International); World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (also on behalf of Soroptimist International; World Young Women's Christian Association); Asia Pacific Women's Watch; International Public Policy Institute (also on behalf of Women's Intercultural Network); Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (on behalf of International Alliance of Women); International Islamic Relief Organization; International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; World Federation for Mental Health; International Council of Jewish Women; and International Network of Liberal Women (also on behalf of International Council of Women; National Women's Council of Catalonia; and Dones per la Llibertat i Democràcia).

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work

1. High-level round table

28. At its 3rd meeting, on 22 February, the Commission held a high-level round table on the theme "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work". The high-level round table was convened as two parallel meetings, allowing for interaction among participants.

High-level round table A

29. High-level round table A was chaired by the Chair of the Commission, Garen Nazarian (Armenia).

30. A presentation was made by the keynote speaker, Mr. Fortunato T. de la Peña, Undersecretary for Science and Technology Services of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines.

31. The delegations of the following countries participated in the interactive dialogue: the Republic of Korea, Greece, Qatar, Barbados, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Afghanistan, Belgium, Nicaragua, Argentina, Lithuania, the United Republic of Tanzania, Niger, Finland, Guatemala, Gabon, Botswana, Timor-Leste, Paraguay, Nigeria, Pakistan, Mexico, Egypt, New Zealand, Kazakhstan, El Salvador, Uruguay and Ireland.

32. Statements were made by Ms. Barbara Bailey, Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and Ms. Joy Carter of the International Federation of University Women.

33. The keynote speaker made concluding remarks.

High-level round table B

34. High-level round table B was chaired by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Kazuo Kodama.

35. A presentation was made by the keynote speaker, Ms. Josefina Vázquez Mota, member of the Mexican Parliament.

36. The delegations of the following countries participated in the interactive dialogue: Hungary, Italy, Chile, China, Spain, Croatia, Panama, Slovenia, Ghana, Sweden, the United States, Switzerland, Jordan, Israel, Belarus, the Syrian Arab Republic, Zambia, Kenya, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as the delegation of the Holy See.

37. The observers for the European Union and the African Union also participated.

38. Statements were made by Ms. Jane Hodges, Director of the Bureau for Gender Equality of the International Labour Organization, and Ms. Deepali Sood of Plan International.

39. The keynote speaker and the Chair made concluding remarks.

40. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission took note of the Chair's summary of the discussions held by the high-level round table (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.3) and decided to transmit it to the Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2011 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 55/101).

2. Panel discussions

Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on science and technology

41. At its 4th meeting, on 23 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the theme "Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on science and technology", moderated by the Vice-Chair, Ms. María Luz Melon (Argentina).

42. Presentations were made by Ms. Sesae Mpuchane, retired Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Botswana; Ms. Hagit Messer, President, Open University, Israel and Professor, Electrical Engineering, Tel Aviv University; Ms. Londa Schiebinger, Professor, Stanford University, United States; Mr. Bunker Roy, Founder-Director, Barefoot College, Rajasthan, India; and Ms. Anne Miroux, Director, Technology and Trade Logistics Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva.

43. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: China, Jordan, Zimbabwe, Greece, Indonesia, Gambia, South Africa, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Mali, Mexico, Argentina, France, Senegal, Niger, Algeria, Finland, Canada, Italy, Paraguay, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Cuba, Nigeria, Morocco and Mongolia.

44. The observer for the European Union also made a statement.

45. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: American Association of University Women; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (also on behalf of the European Youth Forum and Pax Romana); Education International (also on behalf of Public Services International and International Trade Union Confederation); and Lutheran World Federation.

46. The Moderator made a closing statement.

47. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.5) and decided to transmit it to the Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2011 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 55/101).

Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on education and training

48. At its 5th meeting, on 23 February, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on education and training", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Tesuya Kimura (Japan).

49. Presentations were made by Ms. Diana Serafini, Vice Minister for Educational Management, Ministry of Education and Culture, Paraguay; Ms. Subhangi Herath, Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Ms. Ilze Trapenciere, Researcher, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia; and Ms. Saniye Gülser Corat, Director, Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General, UNESCO.

50. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: China, Indonesia, Ghana, Cameroon, Switzerland, Canada, New Zealand, India, Greece, Denmark, Japan, South Africa, Portugal, Mexico, Qatar, Israel, the Central African Republic, Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, the Republic of Korea, Burundi, Morocco, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Colombia, Cape Verde, Thailand, Botswana, Spain and Jordan.

51. The observers for the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Economic Community of West African States also participated.

52. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Mujer para la Mujer; Global Youth Action Network; and UNANIMA International.

53. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.4) and decided to transmit it to the Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2011 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 55/101).

Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

54. At its 8th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Filippo Cinti (Italy).

55. Presentations were made by Mr. Saad Houry, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Ika, Ya Marie and Lil Shira, three young girls from the delegation of the non-governmental organization Plan International to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

56. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Italy, Jordan, China, Guatemala, France, Portugal, Cameroon, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Sweden, Qatar, Canada, Gabon, the United States, Indonesia, Paraguay, Pakistan, Thailand, Senegal, the Philippines, Angola, Israel, Switzerland, Ghana, Cuba, Egypt, South Africa, Zimbabwe, India and Mexico.

57. The observers for the Holy See, the European Union and the Council of Europe also participated.

58. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons; and Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (on behalf of the non-governmental committee on UNICEF).

59. The Moderator made a closing statement.

60. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussion held by the panel (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.6).

Gender equality and sustainable development

61. At its 11th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Gender equality and sustainable development", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ms. Leysa Sow (Senegal).

62. Presentations were made by Ms. Henrietta Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; Ms. Monique Essed-Fernandes, interim Executive Director, Women's Environment and Development Organization; Mr. Robert Freling, Executive Director of the Solar Electric Light Fund; and Ms. Albina Ruiz, Founder and President of Grupo Ciudad Saludable (Healthy Cities International).

63. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Jordan, Switzerland, Portugal, Iceland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Israel, Cuba, the Philippines, Greece, Japan, Cameroon, Paraguay, Mexico, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Guinea, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Armenia and Gabon.

64. The observer for the European Union also participated.

65. The representative of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction also participated.

66. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Network Women in Development Europe; International Alliance of Women; and Huairou Commission.

67. The Moderator made a closing statement.

68. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.7).

Elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women

69. At its 12th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women", which was chaired by the Chair of the Commission and moderated by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women.

70. Presentations were made by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Population Fund; Mr. Werner Obermeyer, Executive Director ad interim of the World Health Organization, New York Office; Dr. Julia Kim, the Cluster Leader for mainstreaming HIV and health into action on gender equality, poverty and broader Millennium Development Goals, within the United Nations Development Programme; Mr. Christopher Benn, Director of External Relations and Partnerships, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Ms. Mayra Buvinic, Sector Director of Gender and Development, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management at the World Bank; Ms. Diane Summers, senior specialist in public policy with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance); and Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

71. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: the Sudan, Norway (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Zimbabwe, Greece, Ghana, Chile, the United States, Mali, Canada, China, France, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Portugal, Switzerland and Japan.

72. The observer for the European Union also made a statement.

73. The representative of Global Youth Action Network, a non-governmental organization, also participated in the dialogue.

74. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.8).

Action taken by the Commission

Agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work

75. At the 17th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission had before it the agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations, as contained in document E/CN.6/2011/L.6.

76. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair, Filippo Cinti reported on the informal consultations held on the text of the draft agreed conclusions.

77. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions, and decided to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its resolution 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, as an input to the annual ministerial review of 2011 (see chap. I, sect. A).

78. After the adoption of the agreed conclusions, statements were made by the observers for Hungary (on behalf of the European Union) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies

79. At its 15th meeting, on 4 March, the representative of the Philippines introduced and orally revised the title of draft resolution E/CN.6/2011/L.1. The draft resolution read as follows:

> **Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies**
>
> *The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> *Reaffirming* the commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action[3] under the critical area "Women and the environment",
>
> *Reaffirming also* principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[12] which recognizes that women have a vital role in environmental management and development, and in this regard recalling the objectives of Agenda 21[13] relating to women, particularly with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management,
>
> *Stressing* the need to ensure women's full enjoyment of all human rights and their effective participation in environmental decision-making at all levels and the need to integrate their concerns and gender equality perspectives in sustainable development policies and programmes,
>
> *Recalling* the agreed conclusions on women and the environment adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session and on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters adopted by the Commission at its forty-sixth session,
>
> *Recalling also* that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[14] recognizes that a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education training,
>
> *Recalling further* Human Rights Council resolution 10/4 of 25 March 2009, in which the Council recognized that while climate-change related impacts have a range of implications, the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability,
>
> *Deeply concerned* that the adverse impacts of climate change on women and girls, especially those living in poverty, can be exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination,
>
> *Mindful* that women who live in conditions of social exclusion have limited opportunities to participate in training and capacity-building and have less access to information related to all aspects of climate change, including on climate forecasts and related warnings,
>
> *Recognizing* that women are powerful agents of change with the potential to contribute innovative responses to the challenges posed by climate change, including by disasters,

Underscoring that gender equality perspectives and the effective participation of women are crucial for effective action on all aspects of climate change, and welcoming in this regard the priority given to such perspectives and participation in the Cancun Agreements adopted at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010,[16]

1. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate a gender perspective into their climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls;

2. *Urges* Governments to facilitate and increase the participation of women, including indigenous women, as decision-makers, entrepreneurs, planners, evaluators, managers, scientists, technical advisers and beneficiaries in the design, development and implementation of all aspects of climate change policies;

3. *Urges* Governments and all other relevant actors, in their efforts in dealing with climate change, to promote women's equal access to education, media and information, communications and technology and to encourage women's equal participation in training and capacity-building for climate change adaptation and mitigation;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, in their efforts in dealing with climate change, to support and empower rural women, who are engaged in agricultural production and play a vital role in providing food security threatened by climate change, including land tenure and other property rights, by enhancing their access to and control of resources;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies involved in implementing climate change policies to provide training on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women and girls and to promote gender balance and gender sensitivity among their representatives and staff;

6. *Encourages* Governments and international financial facilities and institutions that provide climate- and environment-related assistance to ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into the design, approval, execution and monitoring of projects;

7. *Invites* social, economic, political and scientific institutions to take into account the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on women, and, in this regard, to develop gender-sensitive database tools, databases and statistics, which should include reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, as well as methodologies and policy analyses to better understand the links between gender and climate change;

8. *Encourages* Governments to integrate a gender component into their periodic reporting as States parties to multilateral environmental

agreements, and in this regard requests the secretariats of such agreements, as appropriate, to include a gender perspective in the preparation of guidelines for reporting.

80. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the representative of the Philippines orally revised the draft resolution and circulated the text in an informal paper.

81. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

82. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

83. Also, at the 16th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution E/CN.6/2011/L.1, as orally revised and circulated in the informal paper (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 55/1).

84. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation and by the observer for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

85. At the 15th meeting, on 4 March, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Palestine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2011/L.2).

86. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

87. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

88. Also at the same meeting, following a statement made by the observer for Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2011/L.2 by a roll-call vote of 26 to 2, with 8 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. B). The voting was as follows:[32]

In favour:

Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Comoros, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, Gambia, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Swaziland, Turkey, Uruguay.

[32] The delegations of Rwanda and Azerbaijan indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution; the delegation of Spain indicated that it would have abstained from the vote; and the delegation of Niger indicated that their vote should have been in favour of the draft resolution.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Niger, Republic of Korea, Sweden.

89. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States and Israel.

90. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Japan.

91. A statement was made by the observer for Palestine.

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

92. At the 15th meeting, on 4 March, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" (E/CN.6/2011/L.3). Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mali, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

93. At the 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution, as orally revised, had no programme budget implications.

94. At the same meeting, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the sponsors, made a statement.

95. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2011/L.3 (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 55/2).[33]

96. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the observers for Chile and the Holy See.

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

97. At its 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 55/102).

[33] After the adoption of the draft resolution, the delegations of the Gambia and Gabon indicated that they had intended to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

Chapter III
Communications concerning the status of women

98. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 13th (closed) meeting, on 2 March 2011. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 100 below);[34]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2011/SW/COMM.LIST/45/R and Add.1).

Report of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women

99. At its 13th (closed) meeting, on 2 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women.

100. At the 16th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission decided to take note of the report and to incorporate it in the report on its fifty-fifth session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2011/SW/COMM.LIST/45/R and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, as no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 52 confidential communications received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were 36 replies from Governments received by UN-Women.[35]

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

[34] The report was circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2011/CRP.2.

[35] Thirty-four of the replies concern this year's list of confidential communications (E/CN.6/2011/SW/COMM.LIST/45/R) and two of the replies concern last year's list of confidential communications (E/CN.6/2010/SW/COMM.LIST/44/R).

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted as well as communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, gang rape, forced prostitution, threats of rape, sexual harassment, including in the workplace, committed by private individuals, including armed individuals, and military, security and law enforcement personnel, including in detention-related situations and in situations of internal displacement, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations, and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection, support and reparation for victims and their families, including medical and psychological care, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and harmful traditional practices, including forced and early marriage, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection, support and reparation for victims and their families, including medical and psychological care, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(c) Trafficking in women and children, including internal human trafficking, for the purposes of forced labour, in particular for domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish all perpetrators, as well as those fuelling the demand for sexual exploitation, such as identified sex tour operators;

(d) Abuse of power by military, security and law enforcement personnel, humiliation, lack of due process and delays in proceedings, arbitrary arrest and detention, failure to grant a fair trial and impunity resulting from failure by States to promptly investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators;

(e) Physical and psychological threats and pressure on victims of violence, their families and witnesses by private individuals and law

enforcement officials, often preventing them from filing complaints or leading them to withdraw their complaints;

(f) Inhuman treatment in detention and inadequate conditions of imprisonment for women, including failure to provide women inmates with access to basic medical care and adequate hygiene standards, in particular women asylum-seekers, refugee women and undocumented migrants;

(g) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which target specific groups, such as girls with disabilities, widows, and asylum-seeking and refugee women, including harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, such as corporal punishment, rape, torture, child abduction, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection, support and reparation for victims and their families, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(h) Intimidation, harassment, detention of, and death threats against, women human rights defenders and their families, and disproportionate penalties and restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression of women human rights defenders when reporting on women's rights violations, as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their human rights work, as well as failure by States to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations, and to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection to women human rights defenders, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(i) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, of women and girls, including girls with disabilities, often caused by forced and early marriage, and restricted access to services and legal family planning methods, resulting in high rates of maternal and child mortality and sexually transmitted diseases;

(j) Discrimination resulting from stereotypical practices and attitudes towards women, including in the media, education and employment;

(k) Impact of legislation and practices that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, especially right to privacy, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement, and participation in decision-making processes and in public life on an equal basis with men;

(ii) Nationality, personal status, marriage and divorce;

(iii) The right to own and inherit property;

(iv) Employment and equal remuneration;

(v) Education, including access to education;

(vi) Budgeting and allocation of resources;

(l) Differential application of punishments in law based on sex, including cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of punishment.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and consideration of the question of whether any of these appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture, killings, and domestic violence, as well as harassment, mistreatment and detention of women human rights defenders and their families;

(b) Harmful traditional practices, such as forced and early marriage, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights, including the right to health;

(c) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and discrimination against specific groups of women in access to health care;

(d) Increasing number of cases of trafficking in women and girls, including internal trafficking, for the purposes of forced labour, in particular domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation, and the lack of progress in tackling this matter;

(e) The persisting climate of impunity and abuse of power, including in many cases where violence against women, including sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(f) The failure by States, in contravention of their human rights obligations, to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide compensation, protection and assistance to victims and their families;

(g) The persistence of gender stereotypes, including through the media;

(h) The continued existence of legislation or practices in many areas that discriminate against women, or have the effect of discriminating against women, despite States' international obligations and commitments and constitutional provisions to outlaw such discrimination;

(i) Discrimination and violence against specific groups of women and girls, such as widows, asylum-seeking, refugee and internally displaced women, and girls with disabilities.

9. The Working Group appreciated the cooperation by Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations to the communications received, and it encouraged all others to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively, noting in this regard the increased number of replies received from Governments. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made and taken measures, including enacting new legislation, conducting legal reform, introducing policies and services, such as health-related services, to better protect and assist women, including women

victims of violence, developing national plans of action, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence, introducing targeted measures for the promotion of women's rights, making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, including through gender-sensitive budgeting, and improving public awareness-raising activities to promote gender equality and the advancement of women in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter IV

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

101. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 14th meeting, on 3 March 2011.

102. For its consideration, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (E/CN.6/2011/11); and

(b) Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2011/10).

103. No action was taken under agenda item 5.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

104. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 16th meeting, on 4 March 2011. It had before it the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2011/L.5).

105. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-sixth session to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

106. At the 17th meeting, on 14 March 2011, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, Leysa Sow (Senegal), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2011/L.4.

107. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-fifth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

108. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters on 12 March 2010, from 22 February to 4 March 2011 and on 14 March 2011. The Commission held 17 meetings.

109. The session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Garen Nazarian, who also made a statement.

110. At the 2nd meeting, on 22 February 2011, statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

111. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

112. Also at the same meeting, the distinguished guest speaker, Mrs. Emine Erdogan (Turkey) addressed the Commission.

113. At the 9th meeting, on 1 March, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made a statement.

B. Attendance

114. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of delegations is contained in document E/CN.6/2011/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

115. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years. The following officers were elected to serve on the Bureau of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions:

Chair:
Garen Nazarian (Armenia)

Vice-Chair:
Takashi Ashiki (Japan)
Julio Peralta (Paraguay)
Roberto Storaci (Italy)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:
Leysa Sow (Senegal)

116. At the 1st meeting of the fifty-fifth session, on 12 March 2010, the Commission elected Filippo Cinti (Italy) and Maria Luz Melon (Argentina) to replace Roberto Storaci (Italy) and Julio Peralta (Paraguay), who had resigned as Vice-Chairs.

117. At the 2nd meeting, on 22 February 2011, the Commission elected Tetsuya Kimura (Japan) to replace Takashi Ashiki (Japan), who had resigned as Vice-Chair.

D. Agenda and organization of work

118. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 February, the Commission adopted its agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2011/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
      (ii) Review theme: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

119. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2011/1/Add.1.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

120. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the

following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the Working Group of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions:

Ms. Cho Hyung-hwa (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Nicolas Burniat (Belgium)
Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Djibouti)
Mr. Julio Peralta (Paraguay)
Ms. Irina Velichko (Belarus)

121. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission confirmed the appointment of Efraim Gomez (Sweden) to replace Nicolas Burniat (Belgium), who had resigned as member of the Working Group.

F. Documentation

122. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-fifth session is available from the following website: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw55/documentation.htm.

11-28654 (E) 130511

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E/2011/27
E/CN.6/2011/12

USD $ 10
E.EOR.20118S7
ISBN 9789218802118
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